

SPRING CLEANING IN THE CARIBOU-TARGHEE



The Caribou Targhee National Forest, which spans the high country near Island Park and Ashton, Idaho, is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, with pristine rivers, rugged mountains and over 1,200 miles of backcountry roads and trails. The Caribou-Targhee is also home to big game species like moose, elk, deer, and antelope, as well as the iconic grizzly bear.

Forest managers continually strive to strike the right balance between providing multiple use recreation opportunities for all users while conserving valuable wildlife habitat.

Toward that end, in the summer of 2021, Caribou-Targhee National Forest will conduct several on-the-ground projects to restore habitat on old roadways that were legally closed through the 1997 Targhee Forest Plan. Restoration activities will improve habitat for big game and other wildlife, which in turn will create more flexibility for forest managers to authorize new projects to improve the recreational experience in coordination with local communities.

The projects focus on the highest-priority wildlife habitat. On-the-ground activities will include:

- Planting trees and recontouring roadbeds to a more natural slope
- Placing ground cover to mimic natural vegetation, including logs and other organic material
- Replacing old culverts and fixing stream channels
- Installing rock barriers and replacing and/or bolstering gates

Once completed, these areas will become part of the natural landscape and continue to be open to the public for hiking, biking, horseback riding,

fishing, hunting and other non motorized uses. The 650 miles of roads, 89 miles of motorized trail and 179 miles of non-motorized trails currently open to use in the Ashland and Island Park areas will not be affected by the work.

As part of the on-the-ground work, road crews will carry out road grading and other road maintenance to improve access to other parts of the Caribou Targhee Forest.

A \$125,000 contribution from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition will help defray the costs of the on-the-ground work.

The outcomes of this work will be:

- Improved big game habitat, resulting in higher quality hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest
- Clean water and improved fish habitat thanks to reduced erosion, stream channel improvements and new culverts
- Improved grizzly bear habitat, reducing conflicts between bears and people
- More flexibility for land managers to authorize future projects to improve the recreation experience in coordination with local communities
- Improved access thanks to maintenance work on existing roads

For detailed information about on-the-ground activities, please visit our [storymap](#).

What you can do:

- Continue to enjoy the Forest's over 1,200 miles of roads and trails that are open to all users! Learn more about existing trails and roads [here](#).
- Monitor project progress and avoid recreating near active on-the-ground projects so workers have plenty of space to do their work.

Contact Us

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Photo courtesy BLM - photographer Bob Wick



Photo courtesy of USFS



Scan to view the storymap online